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A TRUE

# ACCOUNT

OF THE

# BEHAVIOUR, CONFESSIONS,

AND

# Laſt Dying Words,

OF

*Abraham Bigs, Richard Cabourn, Jane Langworth,*
and *Elizabet Stoaks.*

AT

# TYBURN,

On *Wedneſday* the 21*th.* of *December*, 1684 for High-Treaſon *Murther*, Felony and Burglary, *&c.*

*Printed by ORDER*, &c.

STRANGE it is, that the Fatal and untimely Ends of ſuch as ſuffer for Crimes Notorious, ſhould not deter others from running into the like Extravegances thereby, to reender themſelves obnoxious to the to the Law; or that the expiring Confeſſions of ſuch as have made their Exits by untimely Death, ſhould not be a ſufficient Warning; yet not to prolong ſo ſerious a Matter, *I* ſhall proceed to give the Reader an Impartial Account of the Behaviour, and Laſt Dying Speeches of the Perſons Executed, *&c.*

*Abraham Bigs*, an old Offender, being tryed and caſt, for breaking open the Houſe of *John Middleton*, and ſtealing thence divers Goods of value; as wearing Apparrel, Puter plate, and other Materials of conſiderable Value; and receiving Sentence thereupon, it was obſerved that after he returned to *Newgate*, he behav'd himſelf with much mildneſs and decencie, greatly bewailing his paſt miſpent Life, ſaying that he had been a grievour Sinner Guilty of many Robberies, yet he hoped not but God, out of his infinite Mercys, though far beyond his deſerts would pardon his many Tranſgreſſions, and by giving him a timely ſince of his *I*mpieties, ſuffer him at leaſt in theſe the latter Moments of his Life, to lay hold on him by Faith, that ſo his Mercy might be ſufficient for him, that he might be ſaved through the meritorious

ritorious Death and Paſſion of his Bleſſed Saviour and Redeemer; adding that he knew his ſins too great to be pardoned, without the commiſeration of a moſt Gracious Saviour, whoſe death he confeſſed was a Plenary and ſatisfactory Sacrifice for the ſins of the whole World, ſaying that he had been a ſinner in the ſuparlative degree, Guilty of all manner of Offences as to Robery, except, that of the High-Pad; but was not able to make reſtitution for the wrong he had done, which if he had been he would gladly have made retaliation. To ſuch Divines as attended out of their charitable inclination, him and his condemned Fellows, to give them Sacred inſtructions relating to their Immortal well-fare: He gave great attention, never thinking himſelf ſufficiently aſſured of Life and Salvation, continuing deſirous of inſtructions on that occaſion, not only during his confinement in Priſong but at *Tyburn*.

*Abraham Biggs* being brought to the place of Execution, and well obſerving that there was no hopes of mercy in giving his life a longer date, greatly bewailed himſelf praying very frequently, and deſiring God of his infinite Mercy not to lay his manifold Tranſgreſſions to his Charge; ſaying that he had for his reiterated Offences long before deſerved Death, but now offended Juſtice had overtaken him: He confeſſed he had been Guilty of many Roberies, and for many years ſubſiſted by no other maintenance than what he got by his unlawful Practices, having defrauded many and been inſtrumental in drawing away Youths to Leudneſs as himſelf had been drawn away: He once, not imagining he ſhould have followed ſuch a Courſe of life, as muſt inevitably undo him; but addicting himſelf to bad company in his Youth, he was inticed and drawn away by his Luſts to ſatisfie which, he left no wickedneſs that ſeemed pleaſing in his Eyes unattempted; deſiring the Spectators to let him be an Example to them, and that his ſhameful & untimely End, might deter them from Aſſociating themſelves with Evil Company which had been his ruin, by intraping him in a ſnare that had brought upon him a diſgraceful Death; but he hoped through the Meritorious Death and Paſſion of his merciful Redeemer he ſhould find Mercy at the hands of the great Judge of Heaven and Earth, deſiring all preſent to pray for him.

Mr. *Ordnary* obſerving him very penitent, the better to know how he ſtood affected as to this future State, deſired him to pray audibly which he did, rehearſing the *Lords* Prayer, with much fervency, deſiring that others would pray for him, and ſo continued extreamly penitent to the laſt.

*Richard Caborn*, Tryed and found Guilty for Clipping the Lawful Coin of this Kingdom, as King *Charles* the Firſt's Half Crowns, Shillings and Sixpences, he owning the Fact receieved Sentence as in caſes of High-Treaſon; upon which being ſenſible of his great and grieveus offence, he declared himſelf much afflicted in mind; for leaving his more advantageous Employ, to take ſuch unlawful Practices in hand, which had in the End brought him to a ſhameful Death, deſiring thoſe that came to viſit him, that they would beware of bad Company which had been to him a ſnare, drawing him into the illconveniencies that had forfaited his Life to the Law, and for which, according to Conviction he was to ſuffer; adding that he might have lived happily had he followed his own Employment: But for his ſins he ſaid God had given him over to follow theſe Extravegances that ended in his ruin. To the Sermon preached on *Sunday* laſt, he was very attentive, deſiring his fellow Convicts to give ſerious attention to what concern'd their Immortal Buſineſs, and ſo continued to the day of Execution, not rejecting any advice tending to the Immortal well-fare of his ſoul.

*Richard*

*Richard Caborn* being drawn in a Sledge to the place of Execution and there put into the Cart with Eyes and hands lifted up, beſought the great God of Heaven an Earth to have Mercy upon his poor ſoul which had but a few Moments reſpit e'r it muſt appear before him, and leaſt his prayers ſhould be *Inſufficient* to attoan for his manifold Tranſgreſſions, he earneſtly deſired the hearty Union of the *Spectators* in praying with him, his Prayer to himſelf ended, he ſaid he had been well decended and brought up in Learning and ſuch other Educations as accompliſhed him to live in the World; but degenerating from his firſt Principals he fell into Evil Company, who drew him into ſuch Practices as were unlawful; and by reitterating his Crimes he was imboldened to wade deeper and fall into the ſnare that had brought him to ruin and confuſion, yet he hoped not but there was through the infinite goodneſs of his God, Mercy in ſtore (tho' by him undeſerved) for his immortal ſoul, for whoſe Wellfare he was more ſo licitous than Life, yet deſired all to take warning by his downfal, and that they would out of all Love beware of Evil Company, which had brought him to practice what had been the occaſion of his ſhame: Himſelf being no ways inclined thereto, had he not been over perſwaded.

Mr. *Ordnary* perceiving him very ardent in his Expreſſions deſired him to pray, ſaying he would afterward pray for him; when lifting up his voice he prayed earneſtly, deſiring the Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth to have mercy upon him, and ſtrengthen him in his ſufferings, Pardoning his manifold Offences, and forgiving him all that was paſt. A while after turning to a Friend of his, he deſired him to be careful of his Body, and that he would ſee it decently Buried, which he promiſing to do: He ſeemed greatly ſatisfied thereat, and proceeded to declare that he had made his Confeſſion and Diſcovery to Juſtice *Perrey*, upon his being Apprehended, and once for his ſo doing) he had ſome thoughts of longer Life; but ſeeing his hopes failed him, he ſubmitted to the Law, and caſt himſelf iuto the Arms of his Redeemer, wholly relying on him through whoſe mercies he doubted not of Salvation.

*Jane Langworth*, being convicted for killing her Female Baſtard Infant on the 13*th*. of *December* laſt, by tying a ſtring about it's Neck to ſtill as ſhe pretended it's crying, received Sentence with the reſt on the 17*th*. Inſtant, and being reconveyed to the place of Execution, began imediately to conſider her latter End; Lamenting, that to cover one ſhame, ſhe had brought her ſelf into a greater diſgrace, ſaying ſhe had been well Educated by honeſt Parents, and might have continued happy had ſhe not aſſociated her ſelf with Leude Perſons who had tempted her to commit much wickedneſs, whereby ſhe had provoked God to puniſh her and bring her to ſhame; yet ſhe would bear it patiently, as knowing it was a Correction for her ſins.

To ſuch Miniſters as out of their Pious Inclinations came to viſit her and her fellow Convicts: She gave great attention during the intervene, ſeeming ever deſirous of their Converſation, and inquiſitive in matters relating to her Eternal Wellfare, being asked how ſhe found her ſelf as to a future State, ſhe ſaid ſhe had ſome doubtings, by reaſon of her many ſins; but ſhe hoped God for the ſake of his Dear Son, would be merciful to her and ſupport her in her great Tribulation, deſiring all good Chriſtians to pray for her that ſhe might not faint, and ſo continued during her remaining in *Newgate*.

*Jane Langworth*, being brought to the Place of Execution with loud Laments bewailed her misfortune declaring that she had been a loose Liver, and a neglecter of Gods Holly Worship, giving her mind to Prophaneness, and much delighting in Idle Company which had induced her to run into many Extravagancies, and still proceeding in that course of Life; She at last surrendered her Honour Unlawfully defileing her self, when proving with Child, she used what diligence she could to conceal her pregnancy and so cunningly contrived it, that it was not discovered till she was Delivered and had Murthered her Infant. She than being Sick of the Small-Pox, for which she expried much sorrow, desiring the Prayers of the Spectators, and expressing with a bundance of Tears, the true Sense she had for unnaturality sheding Inocent Blood.

Mr. *Ordinary*, desiring her to Pray, she did it as well as she could, though with many abrupt stamerings the abundance of her Grief and Terror of Approaching Death, not suffering her to express her self freely in her Devotion, to help which, she desired the Prayers of the Spectators admonishing them with a low Voice to take warning by her unhappy end, and not to give themselves over to Ludeness and uncleanness.

*Elizabeth Stoaks*, being convicted for Murthering her Male Bastard Infant on the 28*th*. of *December*, by throwing it out at the Window in the Parish of St. *Martins in the Fields*, and receiving Sentence of Death for the offence and inhumane Breach of the Laws: She upon her being reconveyed to *Newgate* greatly bewailed her self, and would not for some days be comforted as being extreamly terisied at the approach of a certain Death; but hearing and headfully attending to the Prayer of divers Eminent Divines, that out of a Christian Zeal and Charity to those poor Wretches, came to use their Endeavours for the saving of the Souls of those miserable Wretches: She in the End became more consolate and chearful; confessing she had lived many years in service and behav'd her self honestly on all occasions, till she was betrayed to yield up their Honour-Love more than Lust inclining her thereto, hoping it would have been requited, but finding a defect therein, and that shame for such her Leudnds grew fast upon her: She in great confusion resolved upon the Fatal Business, which had brought her to ruin and her latest End.

She was often observed in Prison to exhort her Fellows to a sincere Repentance, looking often in the Scriptures, and appeared very desirous to be instructed therein, and daily became more and more assured of Gods Mercy and Favour extended to her poor Immortal soul; saying God was a God of Everlastingness, & would not lay to her Charge more than he would give her strength and patience to bear, and that she would trust in him and doubted not but that her *Iniquities* would be done away, and her sins tho' of a Crimson Dye blotted out, grieving at nothing more than that she should be so inhumane to destroy the Fruits of her Womb which smiled at her as she said, when she cast it from her Fatal Arms,

*Elizabeth Stoakes*, at the Place of Execution, upon consideration of her Crime, for which she was to suffer lamented greatly, as the former had done: wishing she had never been Born to see the day, wherein she was brought to a shameful and untimely Death, Confessing her self worthy of Death for her so unnaturally sheading Innocent Blood, Beseeching God of his Infinite mercy to Pardon and pass by her Offences, that her *Prayers* and the *Prayers* of those that were put up for her, might in some measure attoan for her Crying-sin. After which she Prayed, and much condemned her self for falling into so great a Tempration, seeming very desirous of a longer Life, although she confessed she had deserved to dye, for being so cruel and unnatural to her Poor Smileing Infant which was guilty of no Crime.

Being asked how she foundd her self as to her Immortal State, and what assurance sha had of her Salvation, she said she for her sins had deserved no Mercy nor could expect any, but through the Mercy and Merits of Jesus Christ she doubted not but she should be accepted.

The Several suffering parties having thus far expressed themselves and unburthened their labouring Souls. Mr. *Ordinary* prayed with them, desiring the Almighty of his infinite Mercy to cleanse them from all their Iniquties, by washing them in the Blood of his dear Son, and to give them a true Sense of their Sins, that to the last Moment of their lives they might by Faith lay hold on him, and by a full reliance on him receive Comfort to their Souls and be Immortally Happy, *&c.*

The Prayer ended, as likewise the Benediction of the Church pronounced. Mr. *Ordinary* proceeded to sing part of the 25. *Psalm*, in which the Prisoners and Spectators joyned and that ended, the Cart soon after drove away, and they with Expressions of Praise and Thanksgiving to the last, ended this Transitory Life in hopes of that more durable and lasting Felicity, that is prepared for such as remain faithful till Death.

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